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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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POLITICAL LEADERS VIEW ALLIANCES TO STRENGTHEN POSITION

Electorate Termed Centrist

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 27 Aug 82 pp 15-16

[Article by Enrique Medeot: "The Macrocenter"]

[Text] The race to win over the broad Center began at a meeting that provided a great deal to talk about, but not because of its boisterous repercussions. The audience that filled the hall of the Coliseo on Thursday the 19th (3,000 seats) kept its emotions well under control and displayed them only towards the close. Perceptive journalists noticed that more than a few people attended to seek information, inasmuch as at the event organized by the Republican National Encounter they saw a number of faces that were also at the rallies (of a different political stripe) that were staged at the Argentine Boxing Federation. An even more important fact: the majority were young people between 18 and 30.

The leaflets said it almost all: Constitution, Yes. Populism, No. And below the list of speakers (Alvaro Alsogaray, Ricardo Boucherie, Victor Luis Funes, Emilio Hardoy, Eduardo Marty, Juan Jose Muzio and Alberto Benegas Lynch) they appealed for support of five key values: Constitution, freedom, democracy, republic and federalism. The biggest round of applause went to Hardoy, particularly when he referred to the moral crisis. He said that "the country was afraid of itself, of its inconsistency, of its lack of concern and of its frivolity." Benegas Lynch was not to be outdone and was applauded when he stressed that we must not fear differences of opinion, "which have always existed, even though those who advocate absurd alliances with anyone and for any reason would like to ignore them."

According to conservative estimates, half of the country's future voters are not committed to the Radical-Peronist camp. Who has a chance to win over this portion of the electorate? Some circles still would rather not make risky predictions. Yet others are sharpening their pencils. In their view, the non-Radical, non-Peronist segment will opt for one of these four political organizations: the Federal Party, the Popular Federalist Force (FUFEP), the Unifying Center Action and the Republican

Union. Of course this breakdown leaves out the Left (communists and various factions of socialists), which could join a faction of Peronism or the Intransigent Party.

Search for a Vice President?

Francisco Manrique, the leader of the Federal Party, has been very active. Moreover, the former seaman's ship seems to have the wind at its back. A few weeks ago the Citizen Action Study Association (Juan Jose Catalan faction) joined the Federal Party's ranks, and the PURA group, which Ariel Dulevich Uzal heads up in Buenos Aires, did so on Friday. Also joining was the Republican Party of La Rioja, whose leaders are Mario Catalan and Manuel Moreno. But Manrique headed elsewhere as well. An example? When SOMOS was at his home at 1100 Talcahuano on Tuesday, it noticed that the leader of the Federal Party has very good friends in Mendoza (his province). And two of them are members of the Democratic Party who met with him to tie together the threads of a possible joint strategy. The Mendoza Democrats belong to FUFETO but they have internal problems, triggered when some of their leaders rubbed elbows with the heads of the Process.

SOMOS has learned that Manrique feels certain of representing the "third force." And he did not conceal the fact that if there are currently frictions among figures outside the party, it is because in one way or another they are vying for the second spot on a ticket headed by him. He refused to name names, but political circles say that some of them are Rafael Martinez Raymonda, Jose Antonio Romero Feris, Guillermo Acuna Anzorena and Julio Oyhanarte. Many do not find it hard to place Manrique on the political spectrum. To them the Federal Party is clearly part of what is customarily called the Center. But Manrique does not like to be branded a centrist or a moderate. And he says that the word "Center" is often used by the Right to conceal itself. What are Manrique's ideas? He repeatedly says that he represents a body of independent views that are very difficult to group together, however. He explained that he advocates a pragmatic approach to life, but with a profound respect for freedom. Other sources that we consulted, however, say that in the final accounting Manrique is a liberal, but not too much of one.

"The polls show that the third option is strong," he told SOMOS, "but that it will have to overcome the stubborn habit of thinking small. The third force exists, but it has to be organized. I think that we will have it well structured in 3 months, which is especially important now because as things are going, the elections could be held early so that the constitutional government could take over no later than 12 October of next year."

The Names

Those in the know say that the third option also hinges on FUFETO. Yet political pundits say that FUFETO lacks a figure of national stature.

For the time being, Francisco Manrique looks like the obligatory candidate, but Rafael Martinez Raymonda and former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez are not being ruled out either. "There aren't any others, nor do we have time to launch someone else," said a spokesman. That's not all. FUFEPO has moved towards common ground with Popular Line (Acuna Anzorena faction) and set up a new liaison committee with Celestino Gelsi, Francisco Gabrieli, Octavio Capdevila, Guillermo Belgrano Rawson and Jose Antonio Romero Feris (it ruled out a rapprochement with Manrique and is getting ready for the governorship of Corrientes).

For now, the committee has decided to hold fortnightly meetings. But SOMOS has learned that another of its tasks is to begin a rapprochement with the Progressive Democratic, Democratic Socialists and Democratic Christian Union parties. Is the rapprochement with Acuna Anzorena on firm footing? Observers say that it all depends on whether an arrangement can be hammered out to dissolve FUFEPO and Popular Line and then reunite them in a single group. They caution, however, that this will be difficult, because many political bosses in the provinces will not yield on this point.

Unifying Center Action (Emilio Hardoy) will also try to seduce independent voters. Its leaders have gone all out to reunify the various scattered groups, mainly in Buenos Aires, where there are more than a dozen conservative-minded Neighborhood Boards. Hardoy, who defined a conservative as a liberal in action, told SOMOS that "now is the time to form a great national party that represents the moderate, sensible sectors of politics and that can eventually become a true majority."

The Center is also sought after by the Republican Union, a group recently launched by Alvaro Alsogaray and that follows the course charted by the Independent Civic Party and New Force. Alsogaray, who does not rule out alliances with kindred parties, says that for more than 30 years the political scene was dominated by the Peronism-anti-Peronism polarization. "The polarization will no longer be so marked," he told SOMOS; "on the contrary, Radicalism is looking more and more like Peronism. The empty half of the spectrum lacked a genuinely liberal force for decades, and this was a serious failure of Argentine liberalism. The future polarization will be between parties that advocate government intervention, development-oriented approaches and inflation and parties that want a stable currency and freedom of action, in a word, the ones that advocate a free-market economy. This is the real polarization that the future holds for us."

'Democracy of Masses' Denounced

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 10 Aug 82 p 28

[Interview with former Economy Minister Alvaro Alsogaray by Diego Dulce; date and place not specified]

[Text] Alvaro Alsogaray, an engineer by training and twice the nation's economy minister, will be

in downtown Buenos Aires today to launch a new party that as the heir of New Force will attempt to become the liberal stronghold of Argentine politics. Although Alsogaray refused to disclose its name to us, the word is that the group will be called Republican Union.

In his talk with CONVICCIÓN Alsogaray outlined the basic elements of his view of the country.

[Alsogaray] Today we are going to present to the public a national commission to promote a new political party. We will reveal its name when we launch it, because we have not yet decided on one. We are evaluating the surveys that we have conducted in private circles, and from this will come the definitive name. We have ruled out the word liberal for various reasons.

[Question] Are you going to head it up?

[Answer] I was the one who proposed the formation of the party for the entire country. I am willing to head it up in the sense of providing it all I can in the way of experience and resources. I am going to assume the leadership of the new group.

[Question] Will the party immediately join the talks to form a broad centrist movement, like the one suggested by the existence of the Unifying Center Action group, for example?

[Answer] Let me explain. The Republican National Encounter, which I belonged to, was formed in August of last year for the purpose of spreading republican ideas and also of serving as a meeting place for all those who were prepared to do something to put them into practice. It was decided at a general meeting last 24 June that it was not going to be a political party. In the interim, I and the people who have been with me in various past experiences decided to form a national political party with the same republican, liberal principles. This party will be prepared to ally with kindred forces that want to unite and move forward together. I concede that there might be competition between Republican National Encounter and Unifying Center Action because they both intend to become the centers of the other groups. The public must realize that there is a coalition of interests, so to speak, between the two. They should actually form a single group to bring together kindred factions.

[Question] What do you think of a possible alliance with FUFETO, Popular Line and the Democratic Socialists?

[Answer] How should I know? They all have their different platforms too. I don't think that Mr (Horacio) Guzman, Mr (Ismael) Amit and Mr (Americo) Ghioldi think the same...They do not have a consistent, unified

platform that would enable us to say whether they are liberals or not. FUFEPO is an attempt to bring together local political factions on a national level, but we do not yet know what they are really offering the country. It all depends on whether they agree with our platform.

[Question] What similarities and differences are there between the process that led to a constitutional government in 1973 and the one that will conclude in 1984?

[Answer] The 1973 process was fundamentally flawed because the whole issue was the emotional one of whether Peron would return or not. This time, in contrast, we should go in a bit more for a discussion of ideas and platforms. In other words, the various proposals that citizens are going to be hearing will have to be somewhat different. In 1973 no one was interested in the Peronist platform (if, in fact, there was a written one), nor in the Radical platform. The Peronism-anti-Peronism polarization no longer exists now. There will be a Peronist Party and a Radical Party, but they are not at odds. Today the political spectrum has an empty space of around 40-45 percent of the voters who aren't registered in those two groups. There is room there for a liberal force that has not been represented politically in the country for many years. The polls that we have taken show that more than 70 percent of Argentines are liberal as individuals, but they then go and vote for the prosocialist parties. A liberal force has to appear on the national political scene, in accordance with the constitution, to express the ideas that a large majority of the Argentine people share.

[Question] Do you think that these last 6 years of what some call "liberal" economic policy have furthered your party's chances?

[Answer] They have tainted the word liberal, and one example of this is that at this point no one wants to call himself liberal. I would, in fact, like to call my party liberal, but why should we expose it to misinterpretation by the public, which is quite understandable, though, because the public can't deal in subtleties. The important thing is for people to realize that we are proposing something very different from what was done over the past 6 years. I don't think that anyone can assert today that I've advocated the same policies as Martinez de Hoz or that I've had anything to do with them.

[Question] Would you be opposed to Martinez de Hoz's joining your party?

[Answer] I don't think he would want to. I wouldn't prohibit him, but we would have to continue saying that what Martinez de Hoz did was not what we are proposing. If he wanted to join under those circumstances, then there would be no problems. The entire group that worked with Martinez de Hoz has basically liberal leanings, but unfortunately they twisted them. I'll give you two examples. Take the key points of modern liberalism. One is monetary stability. A country must have a strong currency that does not erode day after day, so that things cost the

same a year or two from now as they do today. In a word, currency stability as an essential right of the individual. But inflation under Martinez de Hoz was 150-160 percent every year. So how can you say that he's a liberal? Second, in order to have a stable currency, the money supply must be allowed to expand only under certain conditions and never by massive amounts. A money supply growth of around 10 percent a year is already somewhat inflationary. Under Martinez de Hoz the money supply grew at around 200 percent a year. Moreover, he did not reduce the size of government and did not sell off enterprises; on the contrary, he formed more of them...

"Democracy of the Masses"

[Question] You have spoken out on several occasions against the "democracy of the masses." What's the opposite of this, a "democracy of the elites"?

[Answer] A "democracy of the masses" could lead to unlimited power, though it might seem a contradiction in terms, because congresses and government leaders could feel they have a mandate from the people. When leaders win by a majority and feel that this is a mandate for unlimited power, there emerges the essence of what we call "democracy of the masses."

[Question] Could we move from a "democracy of the masses" to the liberal democracy that you propose by means of more controls on government activity?

[Answer] By means of further restrictions on government powers, for example, the powers of the Central Bank, which can make people rich or poor overnight, taking money out of one person's pocket and putting it into another's.

[Question] You have mentioned the need to ban a "Peronist regime." What distinction do you make between a regime and mere Peronists?

[Answer] The same distinction as there is between the Nazi regime and German citizens. Let's take an average Peronist, a worker in a factory. He's not responsible for the regime's abuses, because he didn't commit them. It was the government that became corrupt and implanted a dictatorship; it was a group of individuals who through erroneous policies established a system within which the Peronist voter himself was a prisoner.

[Question] Does that mean that individuals have to be proscribed?

[Answer] That wouldn't be necessary at the moment, because at this point, when everyone is somewhat responsible, it is very difficult to proscribe individuals. I proposed this in 1956 and also to General Viola, but who's going to prohibit anything right now?

Faith in Electorate Voiced

Buenos Aires CONVICCIÓN in Spanish 22 Aug 82 p 24

[Interview with Guillermo Acuna Anzorena, president of the Popular Line Movement, by Diego Dulce; date and place not specified]

[Text] In the view of Guillermo Acuna Anzorena, president of the Popular Line Movement, the Reorganization Process demonstrated clearly that the country has begun a new stage in its history, even though it accomplished only some of its goals.

In this interview with CONVICCIÓN, the former presidential adviser also stated that his party, FUFETO and others would have to build the political force that will guide Argentina in the future.

Popular Line

[Question] Popular Line is a remarkable case in national politics because although it is a minor party, even among those that supported the Process, many of its men are in important positions. To what do you attribute this?

[Answer] It is hasty to say that our movement is small, because we have not run in any elections. As far as positions of responsibility are concerned, I think that the important thing is not the number that a political group has but the quality of those chosen. It is incorrect to assert that we "have" governorships or intendancies. What you should say, in contrast, is that those leaders belong to our movement. We contend that when party men take public office, they govern for the nation. I attribute these appointments to the fact that the government felt that these individuals were best suited to the jobs, and fortunately for the country, the choices were correct.

[Question] The lists that the Interior Ministry submitted do not include your group among the parties that received nationwide recognition. Yet you spoke with President Reynaldo Bignone when he summoned only the parties that had met this requirement. Was this a special favor to friends?

[Answer] You would have to ask that question to the person who did the inviting, not the invitee. I can say that it had nothing to do with our proximity to the Process, inasmuch as we were invited to the Interior Ministry's political dialogues. One explanation that occurs to me is that this was an attempt to apply the Parties Statute in force as of now, which grants more or less similar rights to already established parties and to parties in the process of being recognized...

[Question] What is your assessment of the Process?

[Answer] These years have been so intense that summarizing them for a newspaper interview is very difficult. These years have shown that Argentina is in a new stage of its history and is undergoing the changes that every momentous political period produces. The basic thing is that some of the indications of the change that were half-hidden were brought into the open. Some of its basic goals, which we share, such as the need to eliminate terrorist subversion, channeling change in a positive manner and culminating the process with democracy and a strong government, have been accomplished, and others have obviously not been.

The Next Government

[Question] Is the next government going to be strong?

[Answer] That depends on how the Process finishes up. If the government that emerges from the elections achieves a voter majority by pointing out the real problems facing us now and on the basis of the specific tools it proposes for resolving them, then it will be strong and consistent and make sense for the nation. If, on the contrary, it obtains a majority by looking backwards and resorting to past issues, we might have a good, clean election, but not a strong, consistent government.

[Question] What is your opinion of economic policy over these 6 years?

[Answer] I think that the facts show that Argentina is in a deep economic crisis. I don't know whether just the government of the past 6 years or previous administrations are to blame. The crisis will worsen if all the problems are reduced to economic issues. I think that the first priority should be to resolve our political problems on the terms that I have just mentioned.

[Question] What basic political problems?

[Answer] The basic point is to accept that each period of history produces a political group that dominates it. This has always happened in Argentina. The brilliant generation of 1837 was replaced by the generation of 1880, which was supplanted by the Radical Civic Union when the cycle of national organization was completed and the people came to power. Later, when Argentina entered the era of social democracy, the new party, Peronism, appeared.

The Great Movement

[Question] And what's going to be the great movement this time?

[Answer] A new regrouping of Argentines to deal with new problems. The Multiparty Group is another example in Argentine history of how the political parties that played leading roles in previous periods

have banded together to defend themselves and avoid being replaced. Each one of these parties had gotten the country to take up its banners, and they were all positive in their day...

[Question] What are the banners of the political movement that will dominate the future?

[Answer] I would have to spell out our platform...Rather than banners, I can list the problems that the country must resolve. Argentine foreign policy has changed because the world in which we live has changed...Argentina has to develop its own national essence, consisting of its conception of democracy as the ideal political system in which man can realize himself and of its desire to be an independent nation. Another of our problems has to do with the old banner of "to govern is to populate." But where and how? The country will now have to develop its 4,000 kilometers of coastline...It will have to modify its approaches to efficiency itself... and several other problems.

[Question] Do you think that the parties that lent their men to the Process are going to be less strong at the polls now?

[Answer] They did not give their men to the Process. They offered them in an attempt to accomplish the goals that Popular Line had had in mind before 1976. We applauded the Process in 1976, even though we held no posts and even though with the change of government FUFETO lost its representation in Congress, we lost our deputies and the head of Popular Line, Carlos Sylvestre Begnis, had to leave the governorship of Santa Fe.

[Question] Are you going to form a new party with FUFETO?

[Answer] We have been largely on common ground with FUFETO since mid-1975. Later we set up a liaison committee to spell out objectives, seek solutions together and pursue joint political activities, while maintaining our own individuality. The committee's powers have now been expanded, but we have not yet legally defined this political rapprochement...We don't know yet whether it will be an alliance or a confederation; that will be announced later on. Right now we are analyzing problems together, and this will be increasingly frequent, in a bid to come up with a uniform response. We are moving towards the formation of a joint force for the election process, but it is in no way exclusionist. We have spoken on repeated occasions with the Progressive Democrats, with the (Democratic) Socialists...but I don't want to cite lists that might imply exclusions or groupings of any sort.

[Question] Is the Popular Line Movement liberal?

[Answer] I think that the country is going through a process of change, and in order for it to be bloodless, the State has to do the things that are inherent to it, though in keeping with its subsidiary role...Yes, I'm a liberal, if by that we mean that individual rights and democracy

must be guaranteed. But I'm not if being a liberal means that the State should renounce its orienting function and return to "laissez faire, laissez passer." I am a liberal in that I don't think that the State should manufacture shirts, but I am not in the sense that I think the State ought to produce steel to the extent that the private sector does not...The basic engine is private enterprise, but under a supervisory plan that sets priorities...

[Question] Are you in favor of a civilian-military pact before 1984?

[Answer] I don't consider one indispensable, if you're talking about it as a basic condition for national unity. I have the utmost faith in the Argentine people's ability at the polls.

Centrist Option Being Formed

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 8 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] Unifying Center Action has reported that last 21 July it formed its Board of Directors. The following political forces have joined this organization: the Federal Renovation Party, the National Center Union, the Christian Democratic Union, the Capital Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Conservative Democratic Party, the New Social Order Party, the Buenos Aires Coordinator of Centrist Youth, the Association of Studies and Citizen Action (SEA), the Argentine Liberal Movement, Republican National Encounter, the Democratic Party of Santiago del Estero and the Liaison Committee of United Parties of the Province of Buenos Aires.

It also reported that it has set up internal working committees "that are now engaged in studying the various problems of our nation and in staging meetings to consolidate this effort, which major moderate political groups are in the process of joining."

According to the information released to the various media, "Unifying Center Action's intention is to promote unity among all sectors that represent the political Center, so that it can offer the citizenry a valid, up-to-date, streamlined and dynamic option that seeks to bring in new blood and train professional personnel, in the conviction that this is the best way to offer in-depth solutions for the nation."

"For this reason," the press release concludes, "it is open, without preconditions, to all political groups and citizen organizations that are interested in achieving this goal and values highly any and all contributions that might be made in this regard."

Popular Line Split Imminent

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] The plenary session of the National Board of the Popular Line Movement faction headed by Dr Horacio Domingorena will make a decision as to its political future late this month or early next month. According to people close to the group, it could rejoin Radicalism.

There is almost a consensus among the faction's leaders and activists regarding the inevitable breakup of Popular Line, whose other faction is led by Dr Guillermo Anzorena, in view of the basic differences between its two factions, party circles pointed out. According to them, the main reason for the split was the open support for the military government shown by the former labor minister's faction and the acceptance of public offices.

The plenary session will reportedly discuss two possible options for the party.

The first, which is said to have the support of the majority, advocates a return to the Radical Civic Union, in other words, to the original group. As we will remember, Popular Line was a splinter group from the Integration and Development Movement (MID), which in turn was an outgrowth of the Intransigent Radical Civic Union, one of the two groups into which Radicalism divided.

The other option is to rejoin the MID, but again according to reports from party circles, this does not command enough support to challenge the first alternative.

In any case, several leaders who were consulted did not rule out the possibility that some, though perhaps not all, of the people backing this option would personally join the MID.

Another Faction

But even if the full National Board decides that the movement should rejoin the UCR, there are differing views on the mechanics of this, which in the judgment of our sources is the most difficult step.

The issue will be subjected to lengthy debate, it is felt. The approach that supposedly has the most support is for the movement to join Radicalism as another internal faction, though a merger with an existing faction is not being ruled out for the immediate future.

National Movement

Dr Domingorena's faction of Popular Line appealed to the national forces in June to form a major movement. In the judgment of the faction's leaders, the movement would be based on a reorganized UCR, along with Peronism, the Christian Democratic Party and a number of other minor parties.

To this end they met with former Radical leaders Arturo Frondizi and Oscar Alende and later with Deolindo Bittel. They said that their appeal was given a favorable reception but that no specific response was forthcoming to the possible reorganization of the UCR.

Joint Presidential Ticket Advocated

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 8 Aug 82 p 14

[Text] Arturo Frondizi, a former president of the nation and head of the Integration and Development Movement, has come out for a Peronist and Radical presidential ticket that has the decided support of the rest of the parties in the Multiparty Group.

Frondizi spoke at a dinner organized by the Association of Argentine Businessmen (ADEA). He also answered many questions from those in attendance.

In addition, the secretary of ADEA, Simon Bermudez, awarded the former president a certificate accrediting him as an honorary member of the association.

Frondizi was accompanied by the MID's representative to the Multiparty Group, Carlos Zaffore.

Much of his address dealt with the situation of businessmen in the economic crisis plaguing the country. Frondizi felt that it was "indispensable to form a major and clearly nationally-based business force to defend Argentine production vis-a-vis the interests of the multinationals."

During the dinner Frondizi was virtually bombarded by questions from business leaders. One of them concerned the role of the Multiparty Group.

He replied that the five-member political group "ought to be able to come up with a Peronist and Radical presidential ticket that has the decided support of the rest of the parties."

He felt that a presidential ticket like this emerging from the Multiparty Group would garner the support of 80 percent of the electorate.

One of the businessmen told Frondizi that the general feeling is that the MID endeavors to impose its economic views within the Multiparty Group.

He replied that "it is to be expected that we try to impose our ideas, just as the Peronists, the Radicals, the Intransigents and the Christian Democrats do."

"But the Multiparty Group as a whole," he went on to say, "has developed a program that is the only one that can get the country out of its hole. All we need is the political resolve to set it in motion and an economy minister to pursue it." He asserted in conclusion that the government's economic approach has nothing to do with the Multiparty Group's program.

VOLANDO INTERVIEWED ON SITUATION IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 25 Aug 82 p 28

[Interview with Humberto Volando, president of the Argentine Agrarian Federation (FAA), by Juan Carlos Capurro; date, time and place not given; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Restrained in his gestures, supporting his assertions with data and statistics contained in abundance in his files, /Humberto Volando/ has not changed his rural ways even as he sits at his desk in the capacity of president of the /Argentine Agrarian Federation,/ an organization that /"represents the interests of the small and medium agricultural producer,"/ as its leader explains.

During a dialog with CONVICCIION, the viewpoint of this sector of Argentine agriculture was presented. The sector's structure is now seriously threatened in some areas (Cuyo, Chaco), and its demands for credit, refinancing and incentives are hindered, according to /Volando,/ by a difficult economic situation, as well as the slow pace at which banking institutions are interpreting the /Central Bank/ circulars.

Here are the highlights of the interview:

[Question] What is your opinion of the current state of Argentine agriculture?

[Answer] Looking at the various aspects of Argentine agriculture as a whole, we can observe that in the Pampas there is slow growth in the farming sector and a sharp decline in the livestock sector, with a /general decapitalization/ that is compromising the immediate future. As for the so-called /regional economies,/ the crisis of recent years continues with many ramifications, due to the diversity of situations.

In particular, there are differences between the farm and livestock sectors. The former has received some benefit from current prices, because a significant amount of grain remains unsold. According to our figures, /35 percent/ of the soybean crop remains to be sold; /25 percent/ of corn, and /20 percent/ of sorghum.

In livestock, on the other hand, there is a /downward trend./ Current inventories, according to our data, are below /30 million head./ There has been no growth for years in pork, while in white meat, one statistic tells it all: /here production has stagnated, while in Brazil it tripled between 1974 and 1981./

Meat

[Question] And what is happening to the price of meat?

[Answer] Consumption has dropped sharply. Our organization, moreover, has conducted a study which reveals that the average price in Liniers in 1979 for young bulls was /1,293 pesos/ per kilo on the hoof; the butcher paid /2,314 pesos/ and the consumer paid /3,735 pesos./ Thus, there was a /79 percent/ mark-up between the producer and the butcher, and a /189 percent/ mark-up between the producer and the public.

In the first half of 1982 the average price was /8,078 pesos per kilo on the hoof,/ while the butcher paid /16,666 pesos/ and the consumer /26,280./ Thus, between the producer and the butcher there was a /106 percent/ mark-up, and a /225 percent/ mark-up between the producer and the public.

/Therefore, the producer gets/ 48 percent /of the price paid by the butcher, and/ 31 percent /of the price paid by the public./

As you can see, the producer's profit margin is dropping steadily.

Problems

[Question] What are the most pressing problems in the agrarian sectors represented by your organization?

[Answer] The /FAA/ represents the small and medium producers who have been hardest hit in recent years by the speculative management of marketing by the government, which has cut into their profits. This sector was most severely damaged by the arbitrary treatment of interest rates, which led to unprecedented indebtedness and forced many concerns to shut down, while many others see no solution to their problems on the horizon. This sector, which comprises the vast majority of Argentine agriculture, has also been pummeled by the tax policy of the last 6 years. The /FAA/ showed in many studies how at constant prices the tax burden grew much more for the small producer than for the large one.

[Question] What solution would you suggest to alleviate the difficulties experienced by the so-called "regional economies," particularly the Chaco and Cuyo cotton economies?

[Answer] The so-called regional economies are suffering from problems unlike those of the rest of the country, so there should be more favorable policies concerning them, in terms of credit as well as taxes. There should be a marketing policy designed to attenuate the disadvantages of being far away from ports or centers of consumption.

This problem has been aggravated recently for us, and the only way to do away with this situation is what we already proposed to the government: a /preferential rate/ for these areas. The mechanism should be that /the older the debt/ (that is, the more heavily burdened by tremendous interest rates), /the lower the rate, set at 6 percent./

This would be the only way to make up for the /unrealistic basis of indexing/ that has become evident these past years. /The person who contracted a debt in February 1982 is not in the same position as he who became indebted in 1978./

In Chaco the problems are tremendous. Now we are faced with this situation, as well: /82 percent/ of the cotton crop was sold at /3 million pesos/ per ton; another /12 or 13 percent/ was sold at /3.5 million./ Curiously, however, the remaining /2 percent/ mysteriously climbed to /7 million/ during that time. Thus, there are some who want to import cotton so they will not have to pay these prices. But /those prices were not paid at that time; it was the earlier prices./ There is a great deal of distortion.

In Cuyo, the situation is serious also. I am going there now to deal with the problem.

Everywhere, even in the banks--both official and private--/there are problems understanding the Central Bank's circulars on preferential rates, so the statutes passed by the government in that regard are not being applied immediately./

Government Aid

[Question] Do you think the government should support the agricultural sectors?

[Answer] It is not a question of the government granting privileges to the agriculture sector, but of a philosophy with programs that give priority to the national over the foreign; that stimulate those who produce and discourage those who speculate; that put the economy first, not the currency; that definitely value man rather than structures and formalities.

[Question] What makes the FAA different from the other organizations of the Argentine agricultural sector?

[Answer] The differences lie in the fact that the /FAA/ represents small and medium producers, and therefore defends the working family rather than mere landowners. It advocates the diffusion of land ownership, and opposes the concentration of ownership in a few hands. It postulates a truly national model of development and opposes the satellitism of the multinationals or the great powers that protect them. It demands harmonious development, both regional and sectorial, to prevent the well-known deformities that tend to proliferate. We subscribe to a philosophy of solidarity and cooperation to counteract the crass individualism involved in the aggression of man against man.

[Question] What is the role of the rural man in the institutionalization of the country, in your opinion?

[Answer] People who live in close contact with nature have more affection for the soil that supports them or that nurtured them, and therefore they defend national concerns with more vigor. /In this special circumstance of Argentine life, where basically what we have been seeking for decades is our own identity as a country amid the confusion provoked deliberately by alien influences, the agricultural sector can make an extraordinary contribution, as long as we adhere to the Constitution and the law, where all sectors, large or small, can express their ideas and be heard./

8926

CSO: 3010/2313

HIGHLIGHTS OF FARM POLICY REVIEWED

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 15 Aug 82 p 12

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The Ministry of Economics yesterday released /"the basic features of the current economic leadership's agricultural policy,"/ stating that the goal is "/to achieve an increase in the growth rate of the agriculture sector."/

That policy, according to the official communique, "is based on the fiscal treatment of the final product, as well as inputs."

With regard to the final product, "/withholding is cut to half the current level,/ with the maximum going from /25 percent to 12.5 percent/ as of 1 November for the fine harvest, and 1 February for the coarse crop."

These measures, says the Ministry, seek "to minimize the effect of the withholding cuts on domestic prices."

Along with this reduction, the VAT is paid on inputs in advance, with up to /70 percent/ going to the Capital Tax and/or up to /10 percent/ going to the Income Tax.

As soon as the measure becomes law, agricultural producers must, according to the communique, "purchase their inputs only from suppliers registered for VAT purposes, with an invoice meeting the requirements established by the General Directorate of Taxation (DGI); in all cases, new goods are involved. In the case of capital goods, the computation will be made in five annual installments, which are to be updated as soon as the product is allocated to the farm during the period when the deduction is made; surpluses not computed during the fiscal year in question are not transferable to future fiscal years, nor will they be reimbursed."

The measure explains that "70 percent of 'sival credit [VAT credits] can be applied to the payment of the Capital Tax, and the remainder can be applied without limit to the payment of the Income Tax."

After making other observations, the communique states that "the implementation of the VAT in Argentina had the unfortunate consequence of making it

impossible to utilize credits on inputs in businesses engaged in primary production."

"The maintenance of that system," it adds, "runs counter to the most effective exploitation of the comparative advantages enjoyed by the country in general and the sector in particular."

It emphasizes that these new measures "improve the application of the VAT, which on the one hand helps prevent tax evasion, and on the other hand achieves a desirable neutralization of the tax."

As for the expected results of the measures, the Ministry says that the figures on fertilization during the 1980/81 campaign demonstrate that "it is possible and economical to use fertilizers in the Pampas region."

In view of this, in the "short run" the results of these measures "will be modest," but "in the medium term the objective is to attain overall increments of at least 5 million tons, to obtain a total production of over 40 million tons."

With regard to tax exemptions for exports of pedigree breeders, the document indicates that "the objective is to stimulate this traditional activity, in which breeders, veterinarians and geneticists collaborate for the production of the 'capital goods' of the livestock sector."

Concerning wool, "the purpose of promoting the standardization of production is to ensure the rapid diffusion of this practice among all producers."

To reverse the trend in the white meat sector, "frozen chicken will be subject to 5 percent withholding, and measures will be taken to allow for adequate domestic supplies as well as exports."

The marketing of poultry is to fall under the jurisdiction of the National Meat Board "to promote these policies among all competitive products."

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LACK OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY POINTS TO CRISIS IN FARM SECTOR

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 20 Aug 82 p 18

[Commentary by Silvio Lulinski]

[Text] The technological lag is the primary reason for the permanent crisis of our rural areas. Thus, it should be viewed in the context of our present situation.

A definition of the concept of technology that is not very academic, but sufficient for our purposes, could be this: it is the sum of all methods, processes, systems, implements and tools by means of which scientific knowledge is put into practice on a major productive scale. Hence, any lag in this area means that working methods and the elements utilized are antiquated in relation to others that are well known, more modern and efficient. The proof of their existence lies in the very low yields obtained in almost all agricultural and livestock activities that are carried out in this country, in comparison with the yields obtained in other places, considering the different performances of productive factors.

Some indicators may serve to illustrate better. For example, just 20 percent of the seeds used in each agricultural company are inspected. Another example is that the consumption of fertilizers amounts to 2 kilograms per hectare, one of the lowest in the world; New Zealand consumes 581 kilograms. But these fertilizers are used only in fruit orchards and sugarcane, and in grain production only wheat is fertilized on a small scale. The agricultural chemicals used in the country are the most expensive in the world, regardless of the exchange rate chosen to convert the currency. The list of examples could go on forever.

Overcoming this retardation involves a major change. We must change methods, forms, behaviors, concepts, tools, and everything that is linked to the processes of agrarian activity. Is such a change possible? All changes require prior conditions to be implemented, and they imply a cost and a risk. To change is, to a certain extent, to embark on a necessary adventure, for which one must be adequately prepared. To answer this question is also a challenge.

Change requires, above all, an attitude toward change that involves the entire social group in question. The social personality of rural communities

is naturally resistant, and is strongly conditioned by isolation, lack of communication, insecurity and skepticism, the traditional ingredients of rural life.

To achieve a favorable and positive attitude toward change means overcoming this conditioning through a great effort at cultural and educational integration. The mass media and the educational structure at all levels must play a decisive and predominant role in this process. In all the programming of all the television stations that broadcast from Buenos Aires and La Plata, and that reach the humid Pampas through their repeaters and networks, there is not one single program aimed at rural residents. No program of any educational unit, except for the specific ones, attempts to deal with this problem.

Making changes requires a cost and implies a risk. But given the varying degrees of complexity of changes, the costs required and the risks involved are minuscule, if not non-existent, during the first stages of development. In a dairy meeting held at Venado Tuerto late last June, it was demonstrated that with simple methods of organization and management, the production of buttery fat can be doubled and even tripled on a dairy farm. Huge investments are not needed to regulate and organize production on a dairy farm.

All of the new technology required is available in the country; there is even more than necessary. The institutions devoted to research and development, especially the National Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Technology (INTA), have made very important advances in all facets of the issue, and have the scientific and technical know-how to put them into practice. There are problems in the transfer of this technology, however; in bringing it to the producer and convincing him to use it; in achieving that change.

The changes contributed by the new scientific knowledge develop much more slowly in agricultural activities than in other productive disciplines. After World War II the organic and mechanical theory of soil, the scientific basis for disk plowing, was widely disseminated. This theory recommended bringing the stubble of the crop to the surface of the soil to enrich it with organic material through decomposition, rather than burying it as was done with a plowshare. Today, nearly 40 years later, this technique of plowing still meets resistance. By contrast, the appearance of the transistor revolutionized electrical engineering, and paved the way for the new electronics in less than a decade.

One of the factors that most strongly oppose change is the constant need to cope with short-term problems, which ignores structural problems. Yesterday it was the indebtedness problems; today it is the exchange rates on the divided market; tomorrow it will be some other issue that will undoubtedly arise. But that is not the Gordian knot; it is the low yields that result from our technological retardedness.

As long as this issue is not faced as a national priority, there will be no solution to the country's problem. We owe the rest of the world \$40 billion, and there is no way we can pay it.

But if we really want to regain our dignity in the concert of nations, we can only confront our backward situation and modify it so that we can pay. We have all the means necessary to do so.

POLITICAL PARTY OPPOSES TRANSFER OF HAITIANS TO BELIZE

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 23 Aug 82 p 2

[Article: "Progressive Party of Toledo Opposes the Resettling of Haitians in Belize. They Are Planning To Locate in the Region of Toledo About 2,500 Refugees or Emigrants From Haiti"]

[Text] A well-known organization from southern Belize, the Progressive Party of Toledo [PPT], has made public its opposition to the resettling of about 2,500 refugees or emigrants from Haiti in that region of Belize, since they believe that this action would cause serious resentments and social problems.

The PPT's protest was initially published in the newspaper TOLEDO STAR of Punta Gorda. Subsequently, on 12 August, the PPT's agents sent a note to Prime Minister George Price in which they repeat or establish their opposition to the project.

The reasons that they give to point out the unsuitability of what is planned are the following:

1. That the two predominant ethnic groups in the Toledo district are the Mayas and the Caribes. The Haitians are foreign to them in language and customs; they speak French "patois." In Toledo, English, Maya, Caribe and Spanish are spoken.
2. The area where it is proposed to resettle the refugees, which, according to reports, is that of the Moho River, is inhabited by the Maya-Kekchies, who have nothing in common with the Haitians--not color, race, language, traditions or customs.
3. It is proposed to give to the Haitians land, grants, bank loans, agricultural equipment, roads and other services with funds from the refugee program. This will place them in a privileged situation, and the Maya-Kekchies of Belize will be relegated to the background.
4. The project will cause discontent among the natives since the Haitians will be given facilities and assistance to develop the area, while their own Maya and Caribe reservations remain stagnant, without incentives for promoting their development at the same rate.

5. Despite the plan's humanitarian aspect, it does not seem correct to bring the displaced Haitians to where the Maya-Kekchies are living, since this "will upset the little harmony that exists among the races of the region."

6. Belize needs more inhabitants for its development, but they object to the arrival of any foreign group and that this group be given preferential treatment "that our own Belizean natives do not enjoy and whom we will have to support when the special funds for refugees have run out." They would not be opposed to the arrival of immigrants from neighboring countries, such as Mayas and Caribes from Guatemala and Honduras.

7. In this regard, the PPT also objected some time ago to the planned settling of Vietnamese in Belize and expressed this at that time to the then British governor.

8. In its 1980 and 1982 manifestos, the PPT supports programs for the production of essential grains in the Moho River basin, with technical assistance from Central America and the United States to help Belizeans.

Finally, they ask the government of Mr. Price to make a careful study of the matter, and they ask the same of the U.S. Government and the United Nations, since it has been reported that the Haitian refugees would be those presently displaced in North America and that a specialized body of the UN will be in charge of the program.

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PROFESSOR'S KILLING ATTRIBUTED TO 'MAS'

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 20-C

[Text] A professor of the faculty of economic science of the National University was murdered yesterday morning opposite his home, which is a few meters away from the university, by a person who was said to belong to the MAS [Death to Kidnappers].

The victim was lawyer Alberto Arturo Alava Montenegro, 37 years old, married, native of Tuquerres, Narino, who was shot twice with a revolver by an unknown person who was waiting for him.

Alava Montenegro left his apartment at 6:30 am, as he did every day, to practice sports on the grounds of the National University. At about eight, when he was returning to his home in the El Recuerdo district, at carrera 37, No 25B-25, he was the target of the criminal attack.

Professor Alava Montenegro, who had just purchased EL TIEMPO at a store on the corner, was accompanied by a young man 22 years old, bearded, who, when the shots were fired, took refuge in the building where Alava Montenegro lived and from there cried out for help. This citizen was detained by the F-2, and his name is Demetrio Vallejo.

Eyewitnesses said that the man who fired the shots, an unknown individual, 22 years old, dressed in bluejeans, a white shirt, and sneakers, was pretending to talk on a public telephone at the corner of carrera 37 and calle 26. Once he saw Alava Montenegro coming, he walked toward him, and when he was barely centimeters away from the professor, he fired the shots killing Alava Montenegro instantly. The educator was shot in the forehead and also in the right cheekbone.

The criminal fled south on carrera 37, while Alava Montenegro's relatives and neighbors tried to help him.

As the police were removing the corpse, more than 100 students appeared at the site and took possession of the professor's body and carried it to "Plaza Che Guevara" at the National University.

Alava Montenegro lived with his three children, Walkala, Sundamanoy and Lantaro, who are respectively 10, 8 and 6 years old, in an apartment on the

first floor of the building. Some time ago he had separated from his wife, Maria Eugenia Ordonez.

The professor had been threatened with death by persons who said they belonged to the MAS, and he had informed the rector of the university and his teaching colleagues about this situation.

Specifically, 3 months ago the present husband of Maria Eugenia Ordonez, a man named Alvaro, was the victim of an attack by a person who confused him with Alava Montenegro and fired a shot from a revolver into his skull, which he managed to survive.

Alvaro and Maria Eugenia Ordonez live in an apartment on the second floor of the same building where Alava Montenegro was living with his children. The attack on Alvaro occurred barely 30 meters from where the university professor was murdered yesterday.

Alavo Montenegro was warned by those who were threatening him with death to leave the country, but he said that he did not have anything to fear, because he did not have any links with guerrilla organizations and he lacked the economic means to leave his family in a good position.

A few years ago the professor had acted as defense counsel for guerrillas of the Army of National Liberation (ELN), and at that time he also received death threats from military officials, said his friends.

Minutes after the crime there was a telephone call to the editorial office of EL TIEMPO in which an unknown person who said he was a member of MAS claimed the deed for this organization and maintained that the other lawyers who "were defending guerrilla vagrants" were heading toward the same fate.

In recent days, Alava Montenegro was facing an eviction judgment that a civil court in Bogota was pursuing against him, apparently brought by the owner of the apartment that the professor was occupying. Moreover, the educator's children are now completely unprotected. The parish priest of the El Recuerdo district yesterday started a movement among the neighbors in that sector to obtain some help for these minor children, and it is understood that they will address themselves to the government.

A vigil over the professor's body was held in the Leon de Grieff central auditorium of the National University, and the burial will take place at 2 pm today. It became known that the students want the university professor to be buried on the property of the university itself.

Meanwhile, sources close to the faculty of economic science described the crime as the work of an organization that is interested in creating serious problems of public order for President Belisario Betancur and forcing him to establish a state of siege.

Alava Montenegro was assigned to the law faculty at the National University, where he taught classes in philosophy.

Commuque From the Professors

20 August 1982. "The staff of professors of the faculty of economic science and the teaching body of the National University of Colombia informs Colombians that this morning a professor of this faculty, Alberto Alava Montenegro, was murdered opposite his home a few meters away from the university city.

"Professor Alava had been connected with the university for 7 years, during which he had received the unanimous recognition of his students for his qualities as a true teacher and from us, his colleagues, for his deeply humane character and for the contributions that he always made to the development of the university.

"We admired his integrity and his civil courage. Alberto Alava forcefully expressed his criticisms of the unjust social system that reigns in Colombia, and he was a genuine activist of ideas and of independent character. He also criticized with clear judgment the actions of the university authorities. Moreover, Professor Alava had the courage, which is strange in a decayed society like Colombia's, to offer his valuable services as a law professional in the defense of political prisoners.

"Specifically, the threats that he received from the military authorities during the war counsels in which he acted as a defense lawyer and the threats that were subsequently made to him by paramilitary organizations prevent there being any shadow of a doubt that this is a matter of a political assassination. During the difficult moments that Colombia is undergoing and when only 13 days ago the new president declared that not a single drop more of blood would be spilled in Colombia, this act reflects what the Colombian reality is and particularly that they are continuing to apply the instruments that since previous times have been used to silence the voices that are raised against injustice.

"On the other hand, when the crisis that the university is undergoing is so acute, the result of the government policies against public higher education, our concern is great because this murder is one more in the chain of mortal blows with which they are trying to create a suitable climate to implement these government policies.

"The university staff demands from the president of the republic clarification of this crime and asks all Colombians to recognize in the death of Professor Alava the fall of one who had struggled to build a genuine university of the people and whose attitude of bravery and civil courage will serve as an example to those of us who shared his university ideals."

Police Press Bulletin

The command of the Bogota police department informs the public:

1. That today at 8:30 am on carrera 37, opposite No 25B-25, Alberto Arturo Alava Montenegro, 37 years old, married, native of Tuquerres, Narino, professor of law at the National University, living at carrera 37, No 25B-25, was killed by an unknown person who was wearing bluejeans, a white shirt and sneakers, about 20 years old, who, using a firearm, shot the professor causing

two wounds, one located in the right forehead and the other in the face, right cheekbone. The first report of the incident was made by a woman who identified herself as Carmenza and who described the homicide.

2. A group of about 50 students from the National University who had slowly arrived at the site of the incident, chose to carry the body inside the National University, preventing the legal procedure of the removal of the corpse, which has negative repercussions on the investigation of the act.

[Signed] Brig Gen Jorge Guerrero Montoya, departmental commander of the Bogota police.

At the National University

About 3,000 students from the National University were still holding the body yesterday at 5 pm in the Leon de Greiff auditorium.

In a symbolic "mortuary chamber" the lawyer's body was placed on two ping-pong tables, covered with a Colombian flag and at his feet were placed two wreaths of roses and pompons, while a wide black and red flag was extended at the back of the main stage.

In the meantime, student brigades of 20 to 25 students took control of the 6 entrances to the university, demanding the student identification card for entry, apparently to avoid disorder and the possible rescue of the body.

The students, about 50, arrived at the site of the incident around 8:30 am, and they picked up the body and prevented the legal proceeding of the removal of the corpse and the collecting of possible leads that could help to solve the case.

The body of Alava Montenegro was still wearing a green sweatshirt and underneath he had on a gray wool sweater with green stripes on the shoulders. His full head of hair, beard and mustache appeared carefully combed with a mixture of blood and water during the symbolic act.

The criminal lawyer had a large hole in the lower part of the right cheekbone and another less visible in his thick beard, on the left side of the chin.

The central square of the university, General Santander, which was named by the students "Che Guevara," showed a lot of activity with huddles of people and was surrounded by large posters stating "Here we are, without Alava we are not leaving" and other similar ones, while other groups were enthusiastically preparing marching banners with the names of the various faculties to display during the burial that the students plan for today.

Investigation

The minister of justice, Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha, asked the Administration of Criminal Instruction to name a special judge to investigate the death of Professor Alava Montenegro.

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BANKER OFFERS ASSURANCES ON FINANCIAL SECTOR

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 14-A

[Article by Julian Escobar, EL TIEMPO editor: "Mejia Salazar Asserts: 'The Bank Is Healthy; There Is No Reason for Panic.'"]

[Text] The president of the Bank of Bogota, Jorge Mejia Salazar, said yesterday that the national financial system, affected by isolated scandals in recent months, is not in danger since in general terms it is strong and in good health.

However, Mejia Salazar noted that these scandals may have influenced to a minimal extent the deterioration of the good image that Colombia has traditionally had abroad, with the resulting relative increase in the price of foreign credit--because of the fear of risk--but he emphasized that this situation is really transitory.

At an informal lunch with the press on the occasion of the semi-annual regular assembly of the Bank of Bogota, Mejia Salazar stated that because of the events that have occurred in Grupo Colombia [the Colombia Group], many savers have started to transfer their money from financial middlemen companies and small banks to the large banks of reputed trust in Colombia.

But, with the deliberate aim of preventing a massive removal of funds from the small banks, the Bank of Bogota automatically lowered, as part of its control of the money supply, its annual interest rates from 31 or 32 percent to 30 percent.

"We do not, under any circumstances, want the small banks to be struck by the massive withdrawal of funds. Nor do we want high interest rates that hinder business and, in the end, the yield of profits," said the well-known banker.

Moreover, he noted that the nation must not stir up any more the problem of the so-called financial crisis, but give real and determined cooperation to the government in its aim to overcome the difficulties that have been introduced, to protect savers and to obtain the return of their money for those who were swindled by unscrupulous companies and, as is popularly said, "to go forward."

Mejia Salazar said that in truth control of the whole financial system more or less escaped from the hands of the banking superintendent office and that, as a result, it must be provided with new operating instruments in accordance with Colombia's development in this sphere.

He said that in the case of the Grupo Colombia it is very difficult to mark out the limits between civil and moral responsibility among those persons who are now involved in its dubious management.

Mejia Salazar said that the press must act with a great deal of good judgment in speaking of the "financial system," since this system is very large and complex and one cannot attribute to it as a single entity the errors committed by some of its members, and he defended the action of most of the small banks, which, in his opinion, are working with all the [as published] of the law.

The banking leader advocated that private organizations be prevented from using names like "National Bank" or "State Bank," because they are misleading.

Furthermore, in his report to the Bank of Bogota assembly, Mejia Salazar asked the new government for the immediate outline of a strategy that will allow reactivating the national economy, which is undergoing a difficult period.

He said that the generating of new demand for services and production goods, concentrating this effort on sectors that correspond to felt needs of Colombians and which have a high capacity for generating employment in the short-term must form an essential part of such a strategy.

Mejia Salazar also asked the nation to speed up the development of big mining projects, "if we do want to relieve the position of our foreign payments balance in the near future."

The banking leader disclosed that although positive achievements are observed in the solution of the nation's energy problem, recent reports point out difficulties in putting into production oil fields for which there are great prospects.

Mejia Salazar emphasized that, as the experience of countries that have reached a higher state of development than Colombia's shows, it is essential that there exist here a strong and healthy financial sector, which is necessary in any growth strategy.

In this regard, Mejia Salazar said that, keeping in mind the prevailing situation in the financial system, it is vital for Colombia's future to remember the following points of view:

--A strong and capitalized banking sector is an essential prerequisite to reach high rates of development and to carry out the big projects that the nation needs.

--The financial system must limit itself to the functions that the law clearly establishes for it, without encroaching on other sectors of economic activity. It is clear that the new needs of the economy and the forms of financing that the modern bank has given rise to make modernization of our banking law necessary, but without moving away from its original spirit.

--Financial activity demands, at all times, the highest honesty and capability from its administrators and the strictest control from the state.

--The financial sector must be the vehicle for channeling savings toward productive investment and not toward speculative activities directed to concentrate economic power in a few hands.

--Legislation must not be directed toward legitimizing the outside-banking market, but toward its prohibition, with clear legal sanctions for offenders.

Mejia Salazar emphasized that the recent scandals that have occurred in the financial sector, which "fortunately are very individual cases," clearly show the need for joining all the efforts of the government and the private sector "to achieve that principles such as those expressed above be the permanent standard of conduct for the Colombian financial sector."

"For this reason," he said, "we want to state very clearly our unlimited support for the plans that the new government has expressed to regulate financial activity in Colombia."

The Bank of Bogota president praised the "full and unquestionable" popular support that President Betancur has and the expectations that he has awakened "among the great majority of Colombians, who expect a rapid improvement in their standard of living."

However, Mejia Salazar maintained that, certainly, the present is a difficult time for the Colombian economy.

He attributed this situation to the excess of coffee supply on a world scale, which has depressed coffee bean prices in the international market; to the recession in the industrialized countries, with the resulting decrease of growth in the various exports of coffee and to the phenomena of unfair competition which arise from international trade in periods of slow economic growth, and which seriously affect industrial production.

"These are all phenomena which, alongside domestic inflation, have seriously affected domestic demand and, consequently have, generated a low rate of growth in our economy," Mejia Salazar emphasized.

On examining the general economic situation of Colombia, the banker said that available indicators point out that the low dynamism that the productive sector of the nation experienced in 1981 continued during the first 6 months of this year.

"The situation experienced in the manufacturing, trade, cattle raising and housing construction sectors shows that in 1982 it will be difficult to again reach the production levels that Colombia achieved 3 years ago," he pointed out.

If we keep in mind the Dane data, Mejia Salazar emphasized, the value of real manufacturing production in the first quarter was 4.46 percent less than recorded in the same quarter of 1981, and it should be remembered that in 1981 we were already producing less than in 1980.

"As a result of this conduct, the employment generated by manufactured items again fell in the first 6 months of 1982 by nearly 5 percent. The areas that succeeded in growing were very few: plastics, wood, printing and petroleum by products, and those that decreased their production in real value in an appreciable way were many" coffee grinding, beverages, tobacco, textiles, furniture and transportation equipment," concluded Mejia.

9545
CSO: 3010/2241

BRIEFS

FARC KILLS POLICEMEN--Monteria, 21 Aug--A police sergeant and a corporal died today in an ambush set by alleged guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). According to official reports, the soldiers were ambushed by 18 men and 1 woman, heavily armed, near the town of Santa Fe Ralito in Tierra Alta. The guerrillas, who were carrying submarine guns, fired at "point-blank range" against the police patrol, which did not have time to repel the attack that lasted more than 15 minutes. The subversives suddenly appeared in the road and forced the truck that was transporting several policemen to halt, and then they fired repeatedly. A policeman, backed up by two auxiliaries, initially confronted the rebels, but they were wounded in the cross-fire, along with a still unidentified minor. A spokesman said that one of the policemen subsequently had a leg amputated at a local clinic since his leg was destroyed by the subversives' bullets. The police patrol, concluded the source, was in that zone carrying out a tracking mission directed toward detecting a gang of criminals which had recently unleashed a wave of cattle rustling. It was not confirmed if the criminals actually were part of any guerrilla group operating in Cordoba. The dead policemen were identified as Vice First Sergeant Julio Cesar Ortiz, 39 years old, a native of Manati and Corporal Second Class Pedro Maria Romero, 22 years old, a native of Puerto Gaitan. The identity of the wounded persons was not disclosed.

[By Tono Sanchez] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Aug 82 p 3-A] 9545

CSO: 3010/2241

MRP PROPOSAL FOR SOLVING CRISIS IN COUNTRY

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Aug 82 pp 30A-31A

[Extract of MRP Proposal for Popular, National Solution to Crisis; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] "It is necessary to put an end to the myth that we are an essentially civilized people, that we live in the Switzerland of Central America, that San Jose is a little Paris.

"It is necessary to wring the neck--I don't know whether of the swan or serpent--of those deceitful myths." This demand to face our reality was presented to the Costa Ricans more than 50 years ago by the illustrious Omar Dengo. It is urgently presented to us Costa Ricans of 1982 in order to accept our historic reality.

It has become necessary to strongly advance an alternative, national and popular solution that gives the people clear objectives and directs them in the fight. This means a truly /new National Campaign/ to overcome the present crisis and, at the same time, establish the bases for the construction of a /New Republic/. Based on the redemption of the best traditions of our nation and with the impetus of the strength of the people, the Costa Rican society is projected toward a future of work, peace and well-being for all, toward complete freedom and true democracy.

Nature of New Republic

Based on those objectives, the /New Republic/ must have a revolutionary, popular, national and democratic content.

Why Revolutionary?

The alliance of classes or blocs of power under the unquestionable hegemony of the grande bourgeoisie which has held power and determined the destiny of the country since 1949 is in a serious crisis. The Costa Rican grande bourgeoisie has begun to leave the rural and urban middle classes out of its plans; until now, these represented its social base of support. Seeking to weather the crisis without hurting its own interests, the grande bourgeoisie --greedy as it is--has not hesitated to sacrifice these middle classes. This

has led to a deterioration of their standard of living and the prospect of impoverishment. Today, as never before in the history of the country, it has become evident that the immediate interests and the existence itself of these middle classes require a solid unity with the peasantry and the working class, a unity that opens the way to the formation of a new power and the rise of a new society and a new state. This would be an expression of the strength of the unity of the most exploited sectors of the people with the urban and rural middle classes as well as with the patriotic business sectors--also affected by the crisis--which are ready to join an alternative of this type.

Why Popular?

The popular nature of the /New Republic/ is determined by the fact that this solution to the crisis is only possible through the active, conscious and creative participation of the people in the struggle for a new society and for economic development. The Costa Rican people must free themselves from the ideological tutelage of the grande bourgeoisie, make themselves politically independent from it and become the main actor in the great historical task of social transformation. In other difficult times in the nation, they have done this with courage, determination and intelligence. This transformation could never be the fruit of the plans of small groups or the activity of dogmatic organizations that, acting in the name of the people, merely replace them and, in practice, deny all their transforming energy.

Why Democratic?

The /New Republic/ upholds the democratic values conquered by our people, raising them to a qualitatively higher level where democracy must be the true and legitimate right of all the people to express their opinions and their criticisms at the different levels and make their substantial contribution in decision making. In this way, the right to suffrage and freedom of the press that are manipulated today by the economically powerful would acquire true popular content and become the active right of the people to control the parties and freely elect their representatives. The monopoly that, in practice, makes access to the mass media almost the exclusive benefit of millionaires must end in order to give the people and their organizations access to those media.

In the existing political system, there are democratic aspects that must be defended and improved. The nonexistence of an army and its constitutional ban, freedom of education and religion and the separation of the different powers of the state are aspects of the political system that are part of the life of society and are conquests that the people value and defend. Although they obviously need to be improved and perfected, they are the necessary basis for superior democratic development. To guarantee the constant improvement and expansion of democracy, the Costa Rican people must also zealously watch that the mass organizations have full autonomy from the state since only the constant exercise of criticism and supervision by the people will guarantee purification of the state system and prevent the deformations of all-powerful and bureaucratized states insensitive to the feelings and opinions of the masses and inclined to despotism and arbitrariness.

Why National?

The /New Republic/ claims the right of our people to national sovereignty and the complete economic and political independence of our fatherland. It rejects the present economic dependence on U.S. capitalism and any other form of dependence. It also rejects the fatalistic idea that the "Third World" countries must choose to align themselves either with the United States or the Soviet Union. Our Latin American peoples have the ability to seek their own path without having their destiny determined by the big powers.

With these objectives, it is necessary to promote an active policy of non-alignment that, with the formation of a bloc of sovereign American countries, would make it possible to guarantee economic independence and make the free self-determination of our peoples a reality. In the case of our country, this historic task strengthens the unity of the Central American peoples in their just fight against dependence and oppression.

The national character of the /New Republic/ is also based on the struggles for freedom, justice and independence that our own people have bravely fought throughout their history. These struggles started with the tenacious resistance of our aborigines toward Spanish colonialism, the rebellions of the native peasants against the tobacco monopoly and the fight for the republic and independence that have their greatest expression in the Ochomogo War. The glorious National Campaign of 1856-1857 is, without doubt, the most shining example of struggle for our national independence and sovereignty. The battles of the liberal reformists at the end of the 19th century and the brave voices of those like Ricardo Jimenez who rebelled at the beginning of this century against the one-sided contracts with the banana companies are also part of this history. These struggles in the present century include the movement of the exploited rural and urban masses, the fight for social reforms in the 40's, the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist vein of the Center for Studies of National Problems headed by Rodrigo Facio and the important mass movements in 1970 against the contract that gave our bauxite to the multinational company, Alcoa.

In this hard fight by our people, people like Pablo Presbere, Gregorio Jose Ramirez, Juan Rafael Mora, Feliz Arcado Montero, Omar Dengo, Vicente Saenz, Carmen Lira and Joaquin Garcia Monge stand out. Headed by the immortal Juan Santamaria, they are the source and guide of today's popular, patriotic and revolutionary fight.

The /New Republic/, a popular and national solution to the crisis, will be the continuer of that history of struggle by our people against the compromises and historic betrayal of the eternal values of nationality by the Costa Rican grande bourgeoisie.

Characteristics of New Republic's Revolutionary Transformation Program

The /New Republic/, the expression of the power and desire for transformation by the people, will promote a program of political, social, economic and ideological changes. The political and material bases for the construction of

the new society will be consolidated by breaking the yoke of dependence and overcoming underdevelopment.

In our opinion, that program of in-depth changes that will shape the New Republic must have the following characteristics:

Political Characteristics

Right to Suffrage

There must be a free, equal and secret right to suffrage in the elections of the top government of the republic, guaranteeing the mechanisms so that the people can choose--not based on the magnitude of the demagogic propaganda of the parties of the grande bourgeoisie or the economic power of a group--based on the projects and statements that each political group wants to make within the framework of the New Republic and under equal conditions.

Party Independence from State

The New Republic must guarantee the right to form political parties that are independent from the state and guarantee their participation in the elections to government positions.

On the Army

The New Republic must guarantee the defense of its conquests without resorting to the formation of a powerful army but based on a defense force structured from the heart of the popular organizations.

Religious Freedom

The New Republic must not only respect religious freedom but will stimulate the active incorporation of Christians in the construction of the new society, recognizing the unquestionable roots of religious feeling in broad strata of the people and the progressive role that the churches and the Christians have played and can play at decisive times in the development of our society.

Freedom of Expression

In the New Republic, freedom of expression must become an active right of the Costa Rican people for the development of the new society. They must be guaranteed access to the mass media without discrimination of any type.

Social Characteristics

Labor and Social Rights

One of the basic demands that the New Republic must encourage is to make the right to work a reality. Today it is a dead letter in the political constitution.

The New Republic must also guarantee a just wage for the working masses of our country and compensatory mechanisms that effectively guarantee wage readjustments in accord with rises in the cost of living and increases in national wealth.

Also the right to strike and collective bargaining must be guaranteed as well as unionization of all the workers of the country, eliminating the present discriminations in the Labor Code.

Health, which is another basic right of the people, will be one of the main problems the New Republic must take care of. It must stimulate a vast plan of preventive medicine, especially aimed at the rural zones, with the active participation of the masses.

With the objective of achieving a more rational use of land and urban properties and beginning to resolve the acute housing shortage that the people suffer, the New Republic will promote an in-depth urban reorganization that will make the solution of the housing problem its basic objective. In this sense, maximum limits of private ownership of urban land and fixed assets will be established.

Ideological Characteristics

On Education

The New Republic must promote an in-depth educational reform that makes the great liberal conquests at the end of the last century concerning obligatory education and freedom of education a reality. This has become a dead letter. It must also guarantee a tie between education and productive work and our sociopolitical reality leading to the formation of a critical, creative and responsible youth.

Economic Characteristics

In the economic sphere, the New Republic must promote measures that seek to stimulate production based on a new and more just distribution of wealth in contrast to the projects of large national and international capital that propose solutions based on concentration of capital and greater exploitation of the people.

The economic policy of the New Republic must be based on three fundamental pillars:

- a) Agrarian reform;
- b) Exploitation of the energy resources of the subsoil, rivers and the sea; and
- c) Development of a truly national industry.

Due to the characteristics of Costa Rican economic and social development, with a large number of small and medium owners in rural and urban areas,

three basic sectors of production must be formed: the state sector to take care of mainly the large enterprises of strategic lines of production which require large investments and are the key to economic development; the co-operative and self-managing sector, basically in the rural area; and the private sector.

The agrarian reform will be the main pillar of the economic transformation effort since our country, with the fertility of its land and its climatological conditions, has great agricultural-livestock potential. This is also the indispensable basis for the development of an industry that, to be national, must be based on the industrial processing of agricultural products.

The agrarian reform that the New Republic promotes must put an end to the extraordinary concentration of land in a few hands and to the large extensions of unattended and unproductive land or land with very low productivity like that devoted to extensive livestock. The agrarian reform will set as a goal not only to increase production for exportation and to achieve national self-supply of basic grains and other products but also to eliminate rural unemployment and satisfy the thirst for land of so many thousands of peasants without it--in other words, carry justice and freedom to the broad peasant masses who are always passed over.

The following measures must be adopted for the realization of the agrarian reform:

- a) Expropriation of the unproductive large estates;
- b) Establishment of maximum limits for private ownership of land based on the characteristics and use of each area;
- c) Sufficient free land given to the peasants who do not have any or do not have enough, at the same time guaranteeing them material conditions to stimulate production and permit them to live decently;
- d) Regulation of large foreign investments in agriculture;
- e) Stimulation to the organization of the peasantry and agricultural workers;
- f) Defense and stimulation of already existing cooperatives of small and medium farmers and encouragement for the organization and development of new agricultural cooperatives based on voluntary participation by the peasant landowners; and
- g) Promotion of technology in all aspects of agricultural-livestock production.

A series of measures are necessary for the success of the agrarian reform in our country. They are not directly involved with the problems of land distribution but guarantee the creation of a financial, technical and service base to help Costa Rican agriculture. They include:

- a) Nationalization of foreign trade to end the exploitation and dependence that the peasant producers suffer at the hands of the large exporting and importing enterprises;
- b) Change in the state system--especially the MAG [Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock], banks, universities, schools, the CNP [expansion unknown], the Ministry of Health and the different social programs for the rural area--to guarantee technical assistance, credit, health, education, services and active incorporation of the public employee and student in the major national goals of production and development; and
- c) Promotion of a democratic tax reform that makes taxes devolve on profits and capital as a source of resources to permit the state to give financing and attention to the agrarian reform and economic development.

Forge Broad Class Unity, Solid Political Alliance

That is the historic challenge that we in Costa Rica who raise the banners of national sovereignty and social justice face. It is a challenge that requires the tenacity, patriotism and courage with which our forefathers marched to Nicaragua to drive out Walker and his pretensions of domination of our lands in the heroic National Campaign of 1856-1857. That is why we speak of a /new National Campaign/ because the fight we are convoking the people to is not one for faint-hearted or small-minded men; it requires men and women of courage and stature like the men and women of that time. We also know well that truly overcoming the crisis in all its expressions and its terrible sequels requires substantial changes in the economic, social and political structures of the country. Bandaids reforms or reforms "to gain time" are no longer appropriate. The people cannot be convoked to the fight merely to end by compromising their interests and their future. Therefore, we speak of constructing a New Republic that expresses our firm determination to leave behind all the rottenness of a sick society and an unjust and decrepit regime and leads us to the desired Costa Rica of free and happy men dreamed of by our predecessors.

We are convinced that in order to achieve these objectives and to make the popular and national solution to the crisis good and valid, it is absolutely necessary to win the Costa Rican people over. It is necessary to forge a broad unity of the different popular classes that will weld the middle classes of society with the working class and the poor peasantry in a single front. This means unity among the thousands of rural and urban small and medium owners, the working masses and the intellectuals. This unity must pull together the majority of the Costa Rican people interested in overcoming the crisis and interested in a substantial change in the economic and social structure of our country. Based on patriotic and national values and its valid principles, it will overcome the present and incomplete democracy, safeguard the interests of the small and medium owners and resolve the problems of land, housing, health, dignified work and services for all Costa Ricans.

At the same time--and closely tied to the above--it is necessary to forge a new political alliance capable of unifying the revolutionary, democratic and

progressive forces of the people. Those forces are often found, without their own expression, in the existing political parties of different ideological tendencies in the country and among the many thousands of Costa Ricans without a party. The only condition must be the clear and express commitment to national and popular interests. No one who believes and is willing to fight from a united position for those interests can be excluded or left aside.

This alliance, an expression of the most wholesome and honest political forces of our society, must become a powerful political front that responds to the crisis from popular positions and opposes the forces of large national and international capital. This patriotic front will be solidly formed through the organization of the exploited masses of the people and the middle classes, through strong political action that strikes at the dominant ideology and advances the level of awareness of the broad popular masses, through the creative contribution of the intellectuals who develop their great potential in the battle of ideas and through overcoming the vices of dogmatism, sectarianism and hegemonism that cause so much harm. Finally, it will be formed through the incorporation of the best and most advanced sectors of the people in the /new National Campaign/, in the organization of the great struggle for social justice, true democracy and national sovereignty--that is, through the construction of the /New Republic/.

MRP [People's Revolutionary Movement]
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7717
CSO: 3010/2298

REPORTAGE ON ANGOLAN STUDENTS IN COUNTRY

Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 15 Aug 82 p 5

[Text] Since 1977, more than 5,000 young Angolans have studied in Cuba and an equal number of Cuban teachers have conducted classes in Angola.

Currently, 1,800 scholarship recipients are enjoying their vacations, while more than 1,000 new students are preparing to come to Cuba for the same purpose.

Cooperation in the area of education has expanded considerably between 1977, when only 12 Cuban teachers worked in Angola, and this year, in which the figure has reached almost 2,000.

Also, 130 instructors have taught on the various faculties at the University of Angola.

The Angolan students in Cuba study at the secondary and professional levels, and some of them have completed preparation in their respective areas of specialization.

Since the independence of Angola, Cuba has sent 5,084 instructors, 1,995 of whom have been part of the Ernesto Che Guevara detachment. These instructors have conducted classes for about 307,000 Angolan students.

The young Cuban instructors are distributed throughout the country, and they share in the everyday life of the school where teacher and student pursue the same objective.

Perhaps the most important result of this work lies less in the numbers than in the mutual exchange of knowledge and in solidarity.

An Angolan father told us, "The teachers are brothers more than instructors." A young teacher, barely 20 years old, from the Cuban province of Matanzas added, "I have learned from them, from their history, their simplicity and their affection."

While the young Cuban teachers are arriving now in Luanda to prepare for the opening of classes, the Angolan students, who are on vacation, are making preparations for their trip to Cuba where they will attend classes.

The airport at the capital is therefore becoming a meeting place for the teachers arriving from Cuba and the Angolan students who are beginning their trip to the island in the Antilles.

Cooperation in the area of education between Angola and Cuba takes on a much greater significance than the pedagogical material alone; the Angolans are preparing for the future, and Cuban teachers are preparing themselves for future missions.

9787
CSO: 3010/2290

COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

INTERNATIONALIST TEACHERS LEAVE FOR ANGOLA

Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 18 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Last night a farewell ceremony was held at the Jose Ramon Rodriguez social labor club by the Union of Young Communists, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Federation of University Students [FEU] for participants in the fourth contingent of the Internationalist Pedagogical Ernesto Che Guevara Detachment.

This advance party, which represents the fourth group, is comprised of 363 students and 30 instructors who will leave in the next few days for the sister republic of Angola to carry out their mission as educators.

The spokesman for the students was Ivan Tamayo who emphasized the importance of the work they would carry out and the love they would put into it so as not to abuse the trust placed in them.

He declared, "If it were necessary, we would not hesitate to exchange the weapons of knowledge for the victorious rifle that defends every plot of land in our brother country where we are going in order to offer our modest services."

The main speech was given by Omar Gutierrez, vice president of FEU who said, "You, like other university students who perform the sacred duty of proletarian internationalism, make us proud once again."

He also referred to the fact that this group, like previous ones, must carry out all of the tasks with which it has been charged, "and we are certain that you will successfully complete this mission which has been entrusted to you by our commander-in-chief, Fidel Castro."

The ceremony was presided over by Raimundo Espinosa, deputy for the central committee and co-chairman of its Department of Culture, Science and Centers of Learning; Mariela Columbie, member of the national executive committee of the Union of Young Communists [UJC]; Maximo Amador, under secretary for UJC in Havana, and other officials of the Ministry of Higher Education, as well as directors of the student organization and FEU.

9787
CSO: 3010/2290

NEW TECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION SCHOOL OPENS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] Havana (AIN [National News Agency])--Starting in the coming month of September, a Technical Construction School will begin to operate in the old buildings of the Provincial School of the Orlando (Olo) Pantoja Party in La Coronela, and the new school will be the first of its kind in the country.

This education center will have an enrollment of 600 students with plans to increase that to 1,000 in the early months of 1983. The curriculum will be arranged for boarding students and part-time boarding students; they will be trained in courses lasting a year to become masons, carpenters, plumbers and electricians.

The instruction will be definitely practical in the workshops of the school itself as well as in actual work. Young males 16 years old and older who have the minimum of a sixth grade education and come from the youth movement centers can be signed up in the latter category.

In this latter category are also being included those students who have finished primary school and for some reason are not going to continue on into secondary school, those who are studying at the secondary level have a discrepancy between their ages and grades and those of that age who neither study nor work.

All those enrolling in the Technical Construction School will acquire the classification of workmen which will guarantee their being placed in a job immediately upon finishing the course. They will also increase their level of education by a year.

Those interested may go to the municipal administration offices of the Ministry of Education or to the youth movement schools in order to submit an application.

This new center is counting on being able to provide good living conditions and students will benefit from the cultural and educational functions at the school.

9972
CSO: 3010/2206

SCHOOLING BENEFITS FOR FORMER SOLDIERS NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Reynold Rassi: "The FAR Calls on Youth at Middle Secondary School Level who are Finishing their Military Service to Opt for a Preparatory Course so They Can Get into Special Fields of Study at the University"]

[Text] A new plan or system that will permit middle secondary level graduates to link completion of their active military service with later entrance into the universities, after their discharge by the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) has been put in force in coordination with the Ministries of Education (MINED) and Higher Education (MES).

The essence of this system consists of allowing the young graduates of preuniversity and technical schools of the middle secondary level who, because of their standing on the educational register could not go on into higher education, to have a second chance to do so by virtue of their active military service provided that their attitudes, discipline, and ratings in combat and political training in the units make them worthy of this benefit. As is known, the General Military Service Law requires 3 years of active service for all youth. According to need and circumstances, this period can be extended by 6 months or can be shortened by as much as 1 year.

Insofar as the graduates of preuniversities and technological institutes are concerned, the practice has been to reduce their period of service by 1 year in standard cases. Some of the graduates have their period of service decreased by 6 months, however, and some have completed the 3 years. Whatever the case, all have the right to continue in higher education, which is the most important incentive.

As is known, beginning with the guidelines approved by the First Party Congress, there was launched in the country a new policy affecting those called up for active military service. In summary, it consists of taking into the FAR young middle secondary level graduates. Until several years ago, however, this call was suspended because of the needs of the economy and the educational development of the nation.

This has permitted military units to benefit from these valuable youth who are able to master modern technology and weapons rapidly, something which the

country is counting on for its defense. It has also made it possible for a number of young men, capable of fulfilling their honorable duty to defend the fatherland, to grow steadily while the policy has contributed to the whole education and training of new generations.

And now, as a complement to the First Party Congress guidelines, we have this new system for entrance into the universities by youth with a middle secondary level of education once they have passed out of active military service.

Selection of Personnel in the Units

Whenever a call is made for new soldiers for the military service, the units use a special roster for those entering from middle secondary schools with an appropriate school diploma.

At this time, a special check on their activities begins. Every 6 months, meetings are held at the platoon level to evaluate the results of the period and to evaluate whether or not a particular soldier merits the educational benefit.

The soldier who obtains four consecutive positive 6-month evaluations can be granted the benefit of entrance into higher education and a shortening of his period of service.

In the years 1979 and 1980, the number of youth discharged by the FAR with this scholastic level was relatively small; this made it possible for the beneficiaries to choose their fields and types of courses freely without significantly affecting placement possibilities offered by the MES.

These youth, once discharged, enrolled directly in the university centers, on the basis of the right granted them by the FAR. This process applied likewise to youth who finished their service in 1981, but the increase in the number of beneficiaries made it more difficult to place those discharged by the FAR into their individual specialties.

At this time, because of the increase in the number of youth benefiting from this system, other formulas are being studied in order to balance the chosen fields of service dischargees against actual placement possibilities the Ministry of Higher Education has to offer them and against the needs of our economy so that the most equitable measures can be applied in this situation.

A Problem Being Solved

After being away from school for several years, it is not easy for a young person to return to the classroom without prior preparation.

The fact that the scientific level and educational requirements in the higher education centers are increasing every day means that the student needs a good background for coping with his studies. This situation has created problems for youth who, after completing active military service, have not been able to handle their higher level studies in spite of their will to do so and their

academic discipline; they have not been able to cope because they have lacked the educational background.

This situation has been studied by competent organizations and some different measures have already been tried to help those getting out of the service to prepare themselves as well as refresh and consolidate their knowledge so that their success in their new studies is guaranteed.

Upon the initiative of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, there was organized in March of this year a preparatory course. This was given prior to discharge to more than 400 soldiers of the country who hoped to study medicine. It was intended to prepare them for induction into Contingent I of the Carlos J. Finlay Medical Sciences Detachment.

This course, which is being developed at the present time at the Preuniversity Institute in the Republic of Panama Camp (IPUEC) at Guines, Havana, has had excellent results to date.

Young people have been studying intensively there since March, taking the special program worked out for them by MED; helped along by competent professors, today they present an excellent example of the desire to excel and of willpower.

Expanding the Experiment into Other Fields

In order to expand this experimental program into other fields and make it pertain more to the masses, the FAR has issued a call for a general meeting to all sergeants and soldiers who are graduates from preuniversities or technical schools of the middle secondary level and who have earned this right, stating that, upon completion of 2 years of service, they can be enrolled in preparatory courses leading to subsequent entrance into the universities.

With this end in view, a way has been found to equip three schools in different regions of the country. One of them will be the Republic of Panama IPUEC; it will be for youth of the western areas. The other two schools are still to be established, one at Camaguey and the other at Granma. The possibility of establishing a center for each province of the country in years to come is under study.

All young people who so desire and who meet the stipulated requirements will be able to enroll for these courses.

The courses will be concentrated, with passes on Saturdays and Sundays and with several extended furloughs during the period of study. The basic mission and chief duty of the students will be to study. For this purpose, they will be excused from other military obligations although, like other scholarship students, they will be able to participate in tasks in assistance of the agricultural projects near their schools.

For those finishing up their military service in August, the course will last approximately 10 months; for those finishing in February, the program of

studies will be adjusted to 5 or 6 months. The young people will keep their military status during the course.

After finishing this preparatory course, the students will be given an examination; grades from that will determine their subsequent placements in the different fields. All of them will then be discharged from the FAR and thus be able to commence their new student life.

Under this new system then, a middle secondary school graduate going through active military service can complete 2 years of that service in the units and then spend 1 year or 6 months in the preparatory course.

This is a new opportunity for those who really have an interest in taking higher level courses and completing their university careers successfully.

Direct entry into the university after completing military service, but without taking the preparatory courses, is not an advisable plan. The truth is that young people who have been away from studies for 2 years or more encounter serious problems whenever they enroll directly in higher education courses. They have problems in their educational performance, even to the extent of having to discontinue their studies in a great number of cases.

Young people who have recently been inducted or who will soon be inducted in the 1982 call to active service will be informed, upon arrival at their units, of changes and of the study programs; in doing this, the practical experience achieved so far will be taken into account. It will be explained to them that the more advisable system will be to take the preparatory course as a prior step toward higher education.

The general meeting called by the FAR for the purpose of choosing these courses will take place on 10 August and interested persons should therefore go immediately to their unit headquarters and ask for the appropriate schedule.

To help those young persons with the demonstrated prerequisites who are interested in continuing with higher education, the FAR has also offered this year to those who will be demobilized between January and July of 1982 the opportunity to enroll in the next preparatory course to be taught. Consequently, those wanting to be included in this next course should go without fail to the military commands of the People's Power in their respective municipalities.

If we think deeply about this opportunity that is offered today, then being young, being a middle secondary school graduate and being just out of military service and entitled to the benefits offered by the FAR; and with all that still choosing not to seize this handsome opportunity that only a society like ours provides--that is like letting water run through the fingers and then being sorry about it afterward. Isn't it true then that this is something that deserves to be thought about twice?

9972
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REPORTAGE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE TROOP ACTIVITIES

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 5 Aug 82 pp 24-25

[Article by Jorge Luis Blanco: "These Are the Chemical Troops"]

[Text] One of the chief missions which chemical troops perform is to carry out a complete special treatment once the enemy has struck small units with mass extermination weapons, that is to say, with biological, chemical or nuclear agents.

Those assigned to carry out this work are the small special treatment units, together with the affected units which should, within a brief period of time, return to combat action.

In order that this mission be carried out successfully, the assigned units must have superior combat training, extensive training with the special technical equipment as well as expertise in the preparation of degasifying and deactivating solutions. Besides this, there are skills required for carrying out the special treatment both under daytime and nighttime conditions or in case of limited visibility so as to accomplish the mission within the time specified.

These habits and skills, acquired during the combat training period, are necessary for performing degasification, deactivation and disinfection of combat equipment, armament and personnel.

The treatment can be done right in the combat command post areas of the small units, along the movement routes of those units or in other previously selected areas.

In a visit made to a unit of chemical troops of the Revolutionary Navy we were able to note the high quality of training which these men have to confront, when the time requires, the consequences of mass extermination weapons.

They know their work to perfection. They showed it in a rapid, precise exercise in which they applied each one of the methods used to neutralize the results of mass extermination weapons.

In a blink of the eye we saw how the technical equipment used for radio-active and chemical detection was able to, among other things, measure the

radiation level and give out different signals so that the troops could evaluate the contaminated zones.

In modern combat, radioactive and chemical detection is regularly performed in all units, and small units as well, by the scouts with this type of training. This allows commanders and staffs to have readily available data on contamination of the air and ground and then take the steps necessary to protect their personnel and consequently maintain the combat capability of their units.

At the present time high requirements are levied on the soldiers who conduct the radioactive and chemical detection. They must estimate enemy intentions to use mass extermination weapons, know how to determine rapidly the presence of toxic and radioactive substances, and know how to measure the degree of contamination with the different equipment designed for that purpose.

After that, in a special treatment area, a vehicle promptly distributed cylinders containing degasifying and deactivating solutions. These were immediately used on the apparently contaminated technical equipment.

What we observed occurred in full daylight, not forgetting for a moment that these small units of chemical troops are duly trained to work under nighttime and poor visibility conditions.

"We must work by night with the same efficiency as we do by day," Corvette Lieutenant Rigoberto Fonseca told us.

"Carrying out the complete special treatment is more complex under nocturnal conditions," he added, "because in the deployment of the technical equipment we use and in the degasification itself we must take strict measures to mask our lights. This is done so that the enemy does not spot with his aircraft where our personnel are concentrated and how the technical work is progressing to accomplish tasks in a given region."

The young officer is a qualified specialist of the chemical troops. Showing his full knowledge of the subject, he added:

"The units asked with carrying out the special treatment must make sure that the work is done right without pinpointing their own combat command or the movement routes; to do this they will use only car lights which cannot be observed by the enemy."

For these men, the 1981-1982 Training Year has already ended. Results in general were satisfactory. Now it will be necessary to reflect on the experience so far acquired and then resume very soon their training with yet a greater desire to learn.

9972
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MTT TRAINING CENTER IN MANZANILLO DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 5 Aug 82 pp 26-28

[Article by Luis Lopez: "'Mambises' Yesterday, Militiamen Today"]

[Text] Very close to the municipality of Manzanillo in Granma Province there is in operation a Studies Center of the Territorial Troops Militia (MTT). Its objectives: to train and prepare the militiamen physically and militarily so that they can carry out whatever task is assigned to them in time of war, to achieve the necessary cohesion among them and to teach them how to fight as individuals and within the framework of small units.

The school began its activities a few months ago and right now is teaching its sixth class. For many of these militiamen this is an opportunity to update the military knowledge they learned previously in the Rebel Army, in regular units in time of war or in carrying out internationalist missions.

The group of professors who teach the military subjects come for the most part from command cadre courses which prepared them to fill positions as battalion, company and platoon commanders. Some of their associates belonged to the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

With the Example of the Heroines

It was, as a matter of fact, in Guisa Municipality, Granma Province that the first units of the Territorial Troops Militia were formed.

Here are remembered the strong Cuban women who performed their duties without vacillation in the independence struggles of our people, women like Canducha Quintana, Ana Betancourt and others.

Now the names have changed, but the convictions remain the same. Expressing these convictions now are Amelia, Digna, Regina, Isabel, Ada, Acela and more than 100 female comrades who are now taking the MTT course.

Acela Guitierrez tells us all she had to do to be with her comrades in the school. Her work is one of the most beautiful types which can exist; she is a teacher at a day-care center.

"We are trained for our educational work and at the same time we must be ready for defense. Both things are important. We are the support of the parents; they trust in our sense of responsibility, behavior, and revolutionary consciousness. But assumptions are not enough. We have to put them into action and prepare ourselves militarily."

Amelia Tamayo is always laughing, although she confesses to us that during the defense exercises very few are able to do that, for it is not easy to carry out the orders.... She was part of the battalion which received the combat colors in Guisa.

Very soon she will go on to attend command cadre class for several months. "Who will care for the children?" we ask her.

"One of the grandmothers," she replies, "they know I must attend this school and that my children cannot be a hindrance in carrying out my revolutionary duties."

Her time as a militia woman, first in Civil Defense and later in the Territorial Troops Militia, enables her to have a broader vision of the development achieved by this military organization.

"We have made progress in training and organization," she affirms. "I remember that before we only practiced firing and now all the subjects taught to us enables us to know better what we have to do, when and how, in other words, to prepare ourselves more completely."

Isable Prego, the commander, orders them to fall in. Her voice, strong and decisive, despite that had a little something in it which gave a sense of comradery: "Let's go, little girls; get moving."

In short order the unit had fallen in, ready to continue classes. It is this young militia woman herself who then informs us about the regimen at the school and in particular about the responsibility she assumes in the course.

"To be head of a general staff or battalion commander is not an easy thing, especially when one lacks experience or is young. At times one must order a friend, a companion at work, or a neighbor to do something...it is not easy, you know.... But the school has taught me to understand the suitability and utility of a call to attention."

Two Schools and One Objective

Francisco Escalona Martinez attended his first military school in Minas del Frio in 1958, having the privilege of being one of its first students.

Those 3 months were very hard for him, this soldier of the Rebel Army recalls, because he was only 14 years old when he signed up. After finishing training, he experienced his baptism under fire at the battle of Jigue.

"One of the lessons I learned from those times is that you have to have military training in order to be able to confront any type of enemy," he states.

"I consider this MTT school," he continues, "as a continuation of that experience because it has the same objectives: to prepare us to confront an enemy, in this case now one which is more powerful and with more resources than the one back there."

Another militiaman, Ciro Roca Fonseca, completed an internationalist mission in 1977.

"The experience which I acquired in Angola," he says, "helps me today to aid the youth who come to this military school for the first time. Besides that, the professors rely on us many times to teach the classes and get the best results."

It is about 1800 and the small units begin to return from the field. On some faces can be noted a bit of weariness caused by the task completed. Very near the school exit we meet Ariel Chang Lluis, still a novice in military life because problems of health kept him from engaging in general military service before now.

"This is my first experience, the MTT. Here in the school I have experienced the solidarity, respect and caring of the comrades. I think that all this will be useful in combat, too."

The school has been silent for several minutes. Very few militiamen are seen walking on the sidewalks to and fro. Digna directs her expressive gaze at the paper on which she is writing as if inspired--who knows if from the heart. Regina, leaning against the trunk of a tree, observes the stars appearing in the sky and thinks about her son already grown. He is 23 years old and an internationalist and militant of the UJC [Young Communist League]. She thinks proudly about the son she bore whom she still regards as a little boy. Isabel passes by running toward the barracks, happy to find someone who loaned her everything necessary to set her hair.

From farther away there comes the sound of merrymaking and laughter from some who are already talking about a party at the end of the course.

It is the school and the attitude of the students and their convictions which give evidence of their determination to prepare themselves for whatever contingency. Yesterday Peralejo, the savanna where the shells and the order "To the machetes" resounded. But closer to our times, Guisa and so many other rebel combats won with the decision, Liberty or Death. Today the citizens of Granma are getting themselves ready to convert their territory into a bastion against the enemy and, if necessary, to repeat the charge "To the machetes" with the cry "Fatherland or Death."

9972
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FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES DEFICIT, BUDGET

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 3 Aug 82 p 4

[Article: "Reduction of Deficit Is Sought Through Cuts In the Current Budget"]

[Text] Finance Minister Leonardo Figueroa Villate said that there have been large and very radical cuts in the current budget through a quite severe policy of austerity for the purpose of reducing the 31 December deficit. Therefore, he added, it will be extremely difficult to further reduce the 1983 budget, since that might risk checking the progress of the country and removing the dynamics that it currently needs.

In response to questions asked at the press conference, the finance minister said that one of the policies of the present government is to avoid an increase in the deficit, in spite of existing needs connected with the mobilization, both economic and social and military, that is being carried out, which entails great monetary investments.

A Stage That Is Being Overcome

Figueroa Villate added that, if the 1983 budget is reduced even more than the present one, operational capability will be too greatly curtailed, since the government has to initiate new projects in order to reduce unemployment. We believe, he added, that what must be done now is to increase taxes, so that there will not be a greater deficit in 1983.

The finance minister mentioned that the month of August is one of the most difficult of months, since there is a reduction in mercantile, trade, and other kinds of activities, which consequently causes a reduction in income from taxes. Nevertheless, he added, this stage is being overcome, since the payment of salaries to public employees was made prior to the traditionally established dates. Furthermore, it is hoped that the collection of taxes will improve in September.

Satisfactory Results

Upon being questioned about the fiscal exoneration of fines, interest, and/or additional charges agreed to by the government of the republic for a period of 30 days, beginning this 17 August, the finance minister said that there has been a favorable response from the tax paying public, since many persons have settled their accounts with the treasury department. This exoneration, he said, is much broader than that granted on previous occasions, since in some cases even the judicial expenses are exonerated.

The finance minister pointed out that requests have already been received to extend the payment period. The requests will be given consideration soon, to determine if the established date is to be postponed.

8255
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BRIEFS

STAPLES PRODUCTION INCREASE--The production of staple grains for the agricultural year (30 June 1982 to 30 July 1983) is estimated to be almost 29 million quintals. This was reported yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle, and Food, which added that there will be an increase in all categories. It said that, with respect to the production of corn, there might be an increase of 698,705 quintals (there were 23,151,100 quintals in 1981; it is expected that there will be about 23,849,805 quintals in 1982). It also indicated that, with respect to the production of kidney beans, there could be an increase of approximately half a million quintals (1,783,991; it is estimated that this year there will be 2,209,350 quintals). The same source said that it is estimated that there will also be a slight increase in the production of rice in the 1982-83 agricultural year, since in 1981 1 million 7,339 quintals were harvested; in 1982 there may be 1 million 82,093 quintals. Finally, there will be an increase in the production of sorghum (a plant similar to millet) (from 1,464,918 to 1,760,125). [Text] [Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Aug 82 p 5] 8255

CSO: 3010/2316

H. CASTILLO 'PROPHECY' OF 'CENTRALAMERICANIZATION'

Mexico City EXCELSIOR 18 Aug 82 pp 7-A, 8-A

[Commentary by Ruben Salazar Mallen: "Glossary: Centralamericanization"]

[Text] Heberto Castillo, who inspires and directs the Mexican Workers Party, has made a discouraging prophecy according to which Mexico could become Centralamericanized. He made this prediction last Sunday at Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas. There he affirmed that the crisis is mercilessly weighing down the workers, "the effect of which is that a climate of violence similar to that in various parts of Central America may develop in Mexico in the not too distant future."

The prediction deserves to be taken seriously, since Heberto Castillo enjoys credibility because he is an honest dissident. So honest that he refused to join the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], whose opportunism he sensibly perceived.

To be a dissident is in itself a guarantee and when the dissidence hits the mark, its merit increases and its credibility acquires strength. This is the case with Castillo, no matter if he is from the left of the norm. That is to say, of the reaction that does not recognize itself as such....But that is a different subject. What matters now is to stop and study the prophecy that Mexico is running the risk of becoming Centralamericanized, that is, of giving way to violence in the same way that some countries in the American isthmus have.

In fact it is poverty, or rather, indigence that has precipitated Central America into violence. It is the poorer countries of that region that struggle with situations that are neither normal nor desirable. In contrast, the countries in the same region that do not suffer from poverty have peace, even if their situation is not prospering. As the lower-class Mexican says: "Hunger is a bitch."

Hunger is already threatening Mexico. Even though it was said that there would be no new devaluation, although it was announced publicly that inflation was under control, the truth is that the situation is going from bad to worse.

Many explanations are given about this, many are the measures put into practice, but people do not see the situation improving, rather the opposite. And it is the poorest ones who are most aware that the situation is deteriorating, because

as poverty increases so does helplessness. There are members of society who can take care of themselves, can face adverse conditions, but the poor people do not have the means to do so. And among the poor are the majority of workers, whose salaries do not increase at the same rate as the shortages because corrupt leaders prevent such a thing from happening.

This is why Heberto Castillo digressed from reality to make his prophecy and for this reason his warning that Mexico is becoming Centralamericanized, or is in danger of so doing, should not be taken lightly.

Resignation, whether practiced spontaneously or as a result of coercive measures, always has a limit, and this is the self-preservation instinct. The poor, no matter how poor they are, no matter how inured to their poverty, cannot resign themselves indefinitely and to extreme limits. Even if they had an ascetic zeal the moment would come when life would demand its due.

The fact that these are the realities is the reason why one should not think that Heberto Castillo's bitter prophecy is lacking elements of support.

The opposite is true: Hunger is a bitch and Mexico is getting nearer every day to hunger, that is to say, to the danger of falling into Centralamericanization.

This danger acquires more substance every day that goes by, and the causes that provoke it define its outline more clearly all the time.

9907
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ARMED FORCES CONDUCTING RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Mexico City UNOMASUNO 17 Aug 82 p 4

[Article by Hector A. Gonzalez]

[Text] The Mexican Army is soliciting candidates to join this institution. In the course of the year, campaigns are carried out in popular places, in bus depots and subway stations with the purpose of attracting individuals, to whom a salary of 370 pesos, food, life insurance, short-term loans and bonuses are offered.

A makeshift poster with graphic material about the Mexican Air Force is seen by the unemployed, tourists and travelers who arrive at the Tapo bus station.

Some of the unemployed do not think about it twice. Men recently arrived from the republic's interior, in search of an opportunity to survive and with a suitcase in hand, fill all the minimal requirements, such as: minimum height, 1.60 meters; age, from 16 to 24 years; minimum education, primary; birth certificate and good conduct certificate.

Once the formalities have been taken care of, the armed forces officers in charge take the candidates in bus convoys to their respective battalions. The medical exam is done in the army installations.

The "companions" who decide to join the parachutist battalion number from two to three per day, says an officer. "Sometimes no one joins."

"The Mexican Air Force invites you to aim high as a parachutist soldier in the third battalion of parachutist riflemen," says the message on the posters one finds in the halls and on the platform of the Tapo bus depot, where the San Lazaro subway station is also located.

Also in La Merced, La Villa and the Federal District bus stations, there are army officers with the purpose of recruiting new members for the armed forces.

One of the arguments that Lieutenant Sagredo uses for convincing those who are afraid is: "The army offers many opportunities and practically pays us for getting to know the country, since the parachutist battalion travels a lot and we even accompany the president."

"There are many who are cowards, and for this reason they do not want to join the battalion. They think that the parachute is not going to open once they jump into space." says an officer.

"Many persons without work come here," he said, "and once even an individual who lived in the bus station decided to join the army because he had not eaten anything for several days."

"This individual came from Chiapas with the hope of obtaining a better economic position so that he could send money to his family," he commented. "At least he is going to have something to eat and he will get paid every 15 days," he added.

In the army, he pointed out, there exists the opportunity to pursue a military career or to continue secondary education and acquire a high school diploma.

He said, "Sometimes Salvadorans and Nicaraguans apply, but for reasons of security no opportunity is given to them." He continued, "Once an individual appeared who had been sleeping in the bus depot for some time and whom we already knew as the Nica, because he came from Nicaragua. And he told me: "Listen brother, what is this crap?" You (he is addressing the reporter) must imagine our reaction. However, he said, the Nica told us afterwards that Nicaraguans use this word for anything they like. It is like when we in Mexico say "It is better than good."



Photo caption: The Recruiting Campaign (Photo by Mario Diaz Canchola)

9907
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COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES ATTACKING INDIAN COMMUNITY

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Aug 82 pp 1, 12

[Text] Murphy Almendarez, representative of an association of Sumu communities, denounced Saturday at a press conference what he termed was a seige and encirclement of an Indian community in Musawas on the Atlantic coast by counter-revolutionaries. During the conference held at the headquarters of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Institute (INNICA), Almendarez read a report from his association which reveals that "the Sumu people have been historically oppressed by certain Indians."

According to the same document, those same Indians, whom they were killing and forcing them to leave their homes, have now settled in the mountainous areas at the headwaters of some of the rivers along the Atlantic Coast.

The report further states that counterrevolutionary activities deceive "some illiterate Sumu children" who, now misled, are attempting to destroy their own villages.

In the paragraphs that follow, the document describes the activities that duped Indians, listening to false MISURATA [Association of Miskitos, Sumus and Ramas] politics on the radio on 15 September," have taken in recent months.

They rounded up the whole Musuwas community for the purpose of publicizing, their false evidence; they repressed those who did not listen to their perjury, meting out severe punishment, torture, and even murdering three Musawas children simply for not agreeing with the counterrevolutionaries' action.

"They seized or ravaged the people's possessions, saying they will pay them in dollars, specifying people's properties, such as cows, pigs, chickens, etc., on down to bananas; they brought children's education in Musawas to a halt and abducted the teachers from the same school."

"They were obliged to leave their hometown for the purpose of slandering the revolution; finally, holding a base of this sort, being a large gathering, they even killed seven militiamen recently in Salto Grande, near the city of Bonanza."

The report ends saying that "all these detailed counterrevolutionary activities mean backwardness, grief, economic crisis and pestilence among Sumu communities who were awaiting their progress in this sound and just revolution; therefore, ANCS (Nicaraguan Association of Sumu Communities) condemns all these counter-revolutionary activities and it will be working together with the revolution, struggling for the people to find a solution to whatever kind of problems that may take place in Sumu communities and it will, likewise, be ready to fight together to the very end in this popular revolution of the workers and peasants."

Community on Coco River

Almendarez said that Musawas is a community located about 100 kilometers from the Honduran border or, in Indian measurements, a day and a half's pipe smoking along the Waspuc, a tributary of the Coco River.

He remarked that an individual named Ampino Palacios is the one who leads the opposition, also commanded by some Somozans.

He warned that the community, some 1,800 inhabitants approximately, feels the problem is growing worse day to day, because the counterrevolution is always invading and threatening the people thereabout.

To questions posed by newsmen, Almendarez indicated that the teachers abducted are named Isabelino Smith, Hipolito Taylor and Porfirio Heran and they have been held for two months without divulging their location in Musawas.

He added that another teacher was also abducted more recently and that the murders denounced in the report occurred two weeks ago.

He stated that the agricultural plan for Musawas for 1982 "has fallen through," now that Musawas plantations have been destroyed by the revolution. "Those communities are high and dry, they have nothing to eat and the newborn are dying," he said.

Almendarez was sure the revolutionaries have Musawas inhabitants surrounded and that the latter do not even talk to their brothers and sisters because that would raise the suspicions of the enemy that they seek a way out of the predicament in which they find themselves.

Almendarez thought that the Sumu community was chosen by the counterrevolutionaries because "it was isolated as a group from any counterrevolutionary group whatsoever."

9908
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MDN CRITICIZES RECENT EVENTS IN COUNTRY

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Aug 82 p 28A

[Nicaraguan Democratic Movement column]

[Text] The constant aggressiveness of the de facto government that has set up a leftist dictatorship in Nicaragua has gone to limits that the people can no longer stand. That limit is precisely the confrontation the Marxist government has with the Catholic Church, whose pastor, Monseigneur Obando y Bravo, is the figure most beloved by the people; his impeccable conduct demonstrates extraordinary moral support. The people of Nicaragua have not remained impassive to those attacks on free unions, free enterprise, the Red Cross, the news media, freedom of education. However, it has been reluctantly supporting a situation which worsens by the day. Today, faced with concoction of a vile plot against Father Bismark Carballo, Monseigneur Obando's secretary, whom they tried to involve in a phony "scandal of passion," and whom they forced to disrobe for photographs, publishing them in the infamous, official-appearing newspapers, BARRICADA and NUEVO DIARIO, the people have gotten into a pre-insurrection frenzy. The fighting district of Monimbo de Masaya, where the struggle against Somoza began, has already entered into an agitated, anti-frontist state, putting up barricades in the streets and taking schools and barracks in protest against the abuse suffered by the priest. This information was confirmed from Masaya city. In Managua, the schools have begun strikes and uncontrolled mobs, with government protection, keep the city in a state of near total anarchy.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, faced with the gravity of these events, has made a public call to the international community: to the OAS, whose 17th Consultative Meeting is continuing in session in hopes of a Nicaraguan government that espouses progress and social justice, where human rights, political pluralism are respected and where really and for the first time in Nicaraguan history free and secret elections can be held; to the Andean Pact countries; to Mexico, Panama, the United States, the nations of Western Europe so that, as they helped in installing without success a lawful regime, they will help now in a political request that puts the interests of the homeland ahead of those of any party in advancing the withdrawal of Marxists-Leninists and opens the way for beginning the reconstruction of a suffering people, victims of 45 years of Somozaan dictatorship and of ill-fated years of a government fraught with deceit and treachery. The time for beating the drums in

Monimbo has come again. War is a nightmare that will bring more bloodshed and grief to the Nicaraguan family and threatens to spread over all of Central America.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Movement is ready to join efforts with all sectors seeking a democratic rescue of the Nicaraguan revolution--a revolution with God, with social justice, with freedom to work, with Christian teaching and above all, with honest men capable of fulfilling the political promises that will bring forth real elections where the people express their sovereign will at the ballot boxes. We hope this patriotic call is heard by the international community, once again deceived by those who, without a notion of morality, have enthroned themselves in power as new Somozans, imposing new muzzles and chains on the people, even unto their most beloved religious feelings.

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END